

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A picture decoding and display unit for decoding predictively encoded pixel data of a picture included in an incoming bit stream, restoring original pixel data and outputting the restored original pixel data for display on a display unit, said picture formed by a frame of a plurality of fields, said picture decoding and display unit comprising:

decoding means coupled to receive said bit stream, for carrying out [[said]] a decoding processing on said predictively encoded pixel data to restore said original pixel data, said decoding means including means for extracting information indicating whether a type of said frame of said supplied pixel data included in said bit stream is an I/P picture employed as a reference picture in the decoding processing of a B picture not employed as the reference picture but subjected to only display, for identifying the type of said frame;

storage means coupled to said decoding means, for storing said restored pixel data received from said decoding means;

read means coupled to said storage means, for reading pixel data from said storage means in units of fields for outputting to said display unit for display thereon in response to a read control signal; and

control means coupled to said read means and said decoding means for making said

decoding means start decoding processing of pixel data of a subsequent frame supplied subsequently to a certain frame including a last field to be finally displayed in the certain frame in response to said reading control signal corresponding to reading of said last field from said read means, said subsequent frame supplied immediately following a picture having the decoding processing thereon completed upon the reading of said last field, said picture being different from a picture comprised of said certain frame, wherein

said decoding processing is carried out in units of blocks of the pixel data of prescribed sizes on a screen, said picture including M said prescribed sizes of blocks in a horizontal direction on said screen,

said control means further including delay means for delaying a timing for starting said decoding processing of said decoding means by a time required for reading said pixel data of said M blocks from said storage means,

said bit stream includes data structure information indicating whether said pixel data of said picture are supplied in a unit of a field or in a unit of a frame including said pixel data of said two fields in a mixed state,

said decoding means includes extraction means for extracting said data structure information from said bit stream and designating a data structure indicated by said data structure information, and

said control means including means for inactivating said delay means in response to indication of said unit of said field by said data structure information supplied from said extraction means.

9-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) The picture decoding and display unit in accordance with claim 8, wherein said delay means includes buffer storage means arranged between a pixel data output part of said storage means and an output port of said read means coupled to said display unit, for storing the pixel data received from said storage means for a prescribed time.

30. (New) The picture decoding and display unit in accordance with claim 8, wherein said storage means includes a frame memory storing pixel data of one frame as a storage element for storing only pixel data of said B picture.